

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 00157 071436Z

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ACTION H-03

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SUBJECT: CODEL WILSON

REF: CAIRO 13177

1. CONGRESSMAN AND MRS. WILSON, ACCOMPANIED BY STAFF ASSISTANT CAVANAGH, ARRIVED CAIRO FROM MONDON EVENING OF DEC. 26. THEY SPENT DEC. 27 WAITING FOR CONGRESSMAN CLAY, WHO ARRIVED EVENING OF DEC. 27 DIRECTLY FROM WASHINGTON. MORNING OF DEC. 28 CODEL WAS BRIEFED BY AMBASSAODR EILTS ON DEVELOPMENTS IN US-EGYPTIAN RELATIONS DURING PAST TWO YEARS AND PROGNOSIS FOR FUTURE. AMB. ALSO PROVIDED DETAILED SYNOPSIS OF STEP-BY-STEP APPROACH TO SETTLING MID-EAST CONFLICT AND EXPLANATION OF ACTIVITIES OF SECRETARY WHICH RESULTED IN SINAI II. IN FOLLOWING DAYS, BOTH WILSON AND CLAY FREQUENTLY MENTIONED AMB'S BRIEFING AS ONE OF HIGHLIGHTS OF VISIT.

2. FOLLOWING BRIEFING, CODEL MET WITH MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND CHAIRMAN OF POSTAL AUTHORITY, WHO DESCRIBED IN DETAIL OPERATOIONS OF EGYPTIAN POSTAL SYSTEM, WAGES ANDBENEFITS OF POSTAL WORKERS, AND PLANS NOW UNDERWAY TO MECHANIZE CAIRO FACILITIES ON PATTERN OF ALEXANDRIA (DONE EIGHT YEARS AGO BY FRENCH FIRM UTILIZING DUTCH EQUIPMENT). CAIRO FACILITIES TO BE INCLUDED IN 1976-80 PLAN WITH WORK DONE BY CONSORTIUM OF FRENCH AND BRITISH CONSULTANTS.

3. DEC. 29 CODEL MET WITH SECRETARY OF LABOERS AFFAIRS, PROVISIONAL GENERAL SECRETARIAT OF ARAB SOCIALIST UNION TO DISCUSS POLITICAL AND UNION RIGHTS OF GOVERNMENT WORKERS, ROLE OF UNIONS IN BAR-
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PAGE 02 CAIRO 00157 071436Z

GAINING, AND ROLE OF WORKERS AND UNIONS IN FORMULATION OF

GOVERNMENT POLICY. SECRETARIAT SERVES AS LIAISON BETWEEN EGYPTIAN FEDERATION OF LABOR AND ARAB SOCIALIST UNION AND, AS SUCH, IS CONCERNED WITH POLITICAL ACTIVITIES OF LABOR SECTOR. LATER IN DAY, CODEL VISITED PRESIDENT OF AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF CAIRO WHO DISCUSSED DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED IN UTILIZING INTERNATIONAL AIR MAIL SERVICE BETWEEN US AND EGYPT AND ALSO BRIEFED THEM ON THE ROLE OF AUC.

4. DEC. 30 CODEL MET WITH CAIRO REPRESENTATIVES OF FIRST NATIONAL CITY BANK AND AMOCO WHO DISCUSSED IMPACT OF THEIR MAIL DELIVERY PROBLEMS ON DAILY OPERATIONS, THEN WAS GUEST AT SMALL LUNCHEON HOSTED BY DR. LEILA TAKHLA, MEMBER OF BOTH PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY AND EGYPTIAN UNITED NATIONAL DELEGATION. DISCUSSION CENTERED ON WAYS IN WHICH ARABS MIGHT INFLUENCE POPULAR AND CONGRESSIONAL OPINION IN U.S. WILSON AND TAKHLA ARE PERSONAL FRIENDS HAVING MET ON NUMEROUS OCCASIONS IN U.S.

5. ON DEC 31, CODEL HAD ONE HOUR MEETING WITH PRESIDENT SADAT AT MIT ABUL KONE, HIS BIRTHPLACE, WHICH IS REPORTED IN REFTEL. DEPARTURE FOR ATHENS WAS AT 0830 HOURS ON JAN 1.

6. COMMENT: DURING COURSE OF 5-DAY VISIT, CODEL HAD OPPORTUNITY TO MEET WITH WIDE RANGE OF EGYPTIAN OFFICIALS FOR DISCUSSION OF NUMEROUS TOPICS OF MUTUAL INTEREST. WHILE SESSIONS WITH PRESIDENT SADAT AND AMBASSADOR EILTS WERE PRIMARILY ON MATTERS OF POLICY AND POLITICAL IMPORTANCE, DISCUSSIONS WITH OTHER EGYPTIANS CENTERED ON MATTERS RELATED TO CODEL'S COMMITTEE INTERESTS, AS DID MEETINGS WITH US BUSINESSMEN AND USG PERSONNEL.

7. CODEL EXPRESSED CONSIDERABLE SATISFACTION WITH RESULTS OF VISIT AND PARTICULARLY FOR FRANK AND CORDIAL ATMOSPHERE IN WHICH THEIR MEETINGS WITH GOE OFFICIALS TOOK PLACE. MAESTRONE

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